implementation of Natural Gas Hydrate Programme (NGHP) for evaluation of hydrate resources and their possible commercial exploitation, LNG Import and gas sourcing through transnational gas pipelines.

(c) Directorate General of Hydrocarbons has certified production of natural gas for RIL's KG D-6 field to be 40 MMSCMD in 2008-09, 60 MMSCMD in 2009-10 and 2010-11 and 80 MMSCMD from 2011-12 to 2016-17, tapering thereafter.

Fertilizer subsidy and soil chemistry

2040. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government plan to restructure the existing fertilizer subsidy regime as the soil chemistry in several regions has been affected by over use of certain fertilizers;

(b) whether it is a fact that as part of this restructuring, the existing product based subsidy regime will be replaced by a nutrient based subsidy regime to promote balanced use of fertilizers across the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) A Group of Ministers (GOM) has been constituted to look into the issues related to sustainable use of fertilizers, pertinent subsidies and pricing issues. The issues relating to deteriorating of the soil health, existing subsidy regime and nutrient based subsidy, have also been placed before the GOM.

Crisis in the FACT

2041. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT) is facing problems due to recent price increase of sulphur and rock phosphate and is on the verge of closure; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to save the FACT from impending closure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Yes, Sir. Recently, it was reported by the management of FACT, that the Caprolactam-Ammonium Sulphate plant has been temporarily closed down due to abnormal increase in the price of raw materials in the international market. However, the complex fertilizer (NPK) plant of FACT is still operational.

(b) The Department of Fertilizers is exploring the possibilities of devising a special financial dispensation package for FACT so that it can sustain the impact of increase in price of raw materials and the feedstock.